



Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools

District Results

2012-2013

Provincial Achievement Tests

And

Diploma Examinations

Executive Summary

Report to the Board of Trustees

October 7, 2013

*Report by David Quick,
Assistant Superintendent of
Learning Services*

The Role of Assessment as an Integral Part of Instruction

Assessment of learning is a critical part of the instructional process as it enables educators to regularly use achievement data to identify and address areas of concern and identify areas of strength. **Assessment for learning** strategies used throughout the instructional process assist teachers to ensure that students have learned what they were taught and are ready to move to new concepts. Teachers use assessment of and for learning to guide quality instruction.

The Provincial Achievement Tests and the Diploma Examinations are considered to be summative assessments but the results can also guide instruction in the following year. These year-end assessments are one of the tools available to teachers, other assessment for learning opportunities include: teacher assessments including mid-year and final exams, unit exams, performance-based assessments to name a few.

Students learn many other skills that we do not assess on standardized testing, most notably how to live and work with others, and how to become contributing members of society in a Christ-like manner. These are important learning goals in our District and the province and are included in our Three-Year Education Plan. These learning goals cannot be measured by paper-and-pencil tests.

Provincial assessments are designed to assess the achievement of provincial standards, although, many important learning outcomes cannot be measured by time-limited paper-and-pencil tests. In addition, the interpretation of achievement test results and diploma examination results can vary and involves many factors that contribute to achievement. It should be noted that for the Provincial Achievement Tests results, the results included in this report are based on all of the students enrolled in a particular grade (the cohort) and not only the students who wrote the tests. Results for the Diploma examinations are based only on those who wrote the tests.

Discussion of individual school results will form part of the presentations by school administrators on their School Results Reports in November.

Achievement test results and diploma examination results provide only a part of the overall picture of the performance of the province, a school jurisdiction, or a school.

Overview of the Results of the Provincial Achievement Tests and Diploma Examinations

Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools is proud of the achievement of its students and staff on the Provincial Achievement Tests and the Diploma Examinations. GSACRD students out performed their provincial counterparts in **ALL** core subject Achievement tests at both the Acceptable Standard and the Standard of Excellence. On the Diploma Examinations, GSACRD students matched or bettered their colleagues on **10 of 11** examinations at the Acceptable Standard and in 8 of 11 at the Standard of Excellence.

Some of the highlights of GSACRD results include:

Grade 3 PAT Results

- GSACRD students significantly exceeded the provincial results at both the Acceptable Standard and Standard of Excellence in Provincial Achievement Tests in English Language Arts and mathematics. GSACRD students averaged 10% higher in Language Arts and 11% higher on the Acceptable Standard and 7% higher in Language Arts and 9% in Mathematics on the Standard of Excellence.
- 91% of GSACRD students successfully met the acceptable standard in English Language Arts compared to 81% for the province.
- The number of GSACRD students below the Acceptable Standard was much better than the provincial results in English Language Arts and Mathematics.
- The 5-year trend indicates that student achievement has remained at a high level at the Acceptable Standard and the Standard of Excellence in English Language Arts, French language Arts and Mathematics.

Grade 6 PAT Results


- GSACRD students significantly exceeded the provincial results at both the Acceptable Standard and Standard of Excellence in all curriculum areas.
- The overall percentage of GSACRD students not meeting the Acceptable Standard was better than the province.
- French Immersion students continued their long tradition of success with results above the province.
- The 5-year trend indicates that the number of students achieving the Acceptable Standard and the Standard of Excellence has remained very high and relatively constant over time.

Grade 9 PAT Results

- GSACRD students have significantly exceeded the provincial results at the Acceptable Standard and the Standard of Excellence on all areas tested by the Provincial Achievement Tests (English Language Arts, French Language Arts, Social Studies, Science, and Mathematics).
- The percentage of GSACRD students not meeting the Acceptable Standard is well below the provincial results.
- The 5-year trend indicates that the outstanding success of GSACRD grade 9 students has remained stable in all areas tested by the Provincial Achievement Tests.

Diploma Examination Results

- Participation rates in academic high school courses required by post secondary continues to surpass the level of the province.
- GSACRD students have exceeded the provincial results on all post secondary entrance required diploma examinations at the Acceptable Standard.
- Overall, GSACRD students have exceeded the provincial results on 10 of the 11 diploma examinations at the Acceptable Standard, Socials 30-2 was the exception.
- The participation rate of GSACRD students in French Immersion is more than twice that of the province.



Looking Ahead

1. The results are being carefully examined by Central Office Leadership Team and school-based administrators to determine our successes and areas of focus to improve student learning.
2. The overall District results will be shared with our community through our Communications Manager.
3. School-based administrators are in the process of sharing the results with their teachers and will collaboratively determine a plan of action to either maintain successful results or to improve results in areas requiring improvement. Celebration of achievement will be encouraged at the school level to recognize the work of teachers and the success of our students.
4. School-based administrators will share the results with their school councils and parent communities.
5. School-based administrators will share their school results with the District's senior administrative team during the School Results Reviews in late October and November. Strategies to address those areas requiring improvement at the school level will be shared with trustees and the Central Office Leadership Team at that time.
6. As a District, we will continue to focus on building our strength in the Standard of Excellence throughout the grade levels.

Provincial Achievement Test Results 2012-13

	Acceptable			Excellence		
	GSACRD	Prov.	+/-	GSACRD	Prov.	+/-
ELA 3	91.1	81.5	+9.6	26.3	19.4	+6.9
Math 3 All	87.6	76.5	+11.1	34.4	25.5	+8.9
FLA 3	89.9	79.7	+10.2	16.2	12.4	+3.8
ELA 6	90.4	82.5	+7.9	23.2	18.0	+5.2
Math 6	86.6	73.0	+13.6	20.6	16.4	+4.2
Science 6 All	89.0	77.5	+11.5	32.1	25.9	+6.2
Socials 6 All	87.5	72.7	+14.8	22.9	19.0	+3.9
FLA 6	100	88.6	+11.4	19.1	16.3	+2.8
ELA 9	89.0	76.4	+12.6	19.4	14.7	+4.7
Math 9	79.3	66.5	+12.8	18.7	18.2	+0.5
Science 9 All	87.8	72.6	+15.2	28.7	19.9	+8.8
Socials 9 All	75.9	65.3	+10.6	24.9	18.7	+6.2
FLA 9	90.3	87.2	+3.1	19.4	13.9	+5.5
Overall Avg. +/-			+11.1			+5.2

Diploma Exam Results 2012-13

	Acceptable			Excellence		
	GSACRD	Prov.	+/-	GSACRD	Prov.	+/-
Biology 30	91.6	84.5	+7.1	34.2	32.3	+1.9
Chemistry 30	86.0	78.8	+5.0	36.9	31.9	+7.2
ELA 30-1	92.7	86.3	+6.4	14.0	10.6	+4.7
ELA 30-2	97.5	89.6	+7.9	15.0	11.1	+3.9
FLA 30-1	98.2	95.3	+2.9	7.3	12.4	-5.1
Physics 30	87.5	81.0	+6.5	33.3	30.3	+3.0
Math 30-1	84.8	80.6	+4.2	36.2	35.6	+0.6
Math 30-2	78.5	68.1	+10.4	13.9	9.3	+4.6
Science 30	86.4	84.0	+2.4	32.2	25.4	+6.8
Socials 30-1	90.1	85.4	+4.7	12.0	15.3	-3.3
Socials 30-2	79.8	82.4	-2.6	11.3	13.8	-2.5
Overall Avg. +/-			+5.0			+1.9